

Alternate Qualification Procedures for County Agricultural Commissioner Staff to Obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate

Date November 14, 2003

Enclosure to Pest Management and Licensing Branch letter PML 03-06

Distribution County agricultural commissioners

Referrals If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Adolfo R. Gallo, Program Specialist, at (916) 445-3895.

Purpose This document replaces Enforcement Letter ENF 85-060, "*Alternate Qualification Procedure for Qualified Applicator Certificate*." It explains the revised alternate qualification procedures for county agricultural commissioner (CAC) staff to qualify for the qualified applicator certificate (QAC).

The alternate qualification procedures apply to two QAC pest control categories:

- Right-of-way
 - Regulatory
-

Alternate qualification procedure The alternate qualification procedure for CAC staff allows for waiving the two major requirements for obtaining the QAC:

- Paying fees
- Passing the standard laws and regulations, and license category examinations

Continued on next page

Alternate Qualification Procedures for County Agricultural Commissioner Staff to Obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate, Continued

Background

CAC staff may use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides under a mandated county, state, or federal pest management program. Usually this involves right-of-way pest control or a regulatory pest eradication program.

At the 2003 Spring Conference, the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association approved revised alternate qualification procedures to obtain a QAC. Those procedures were described in an issue paper presented by their representative, and a representative from the Department of Regulation (DPR). A copy of the issue paper is enclosed.

Procedures

CAC staff must verify that they:

- Are performing pest control in a right-of-way or regulatory pest management program as part of their job duties.
- Possess certain valid county agricultural inspector biologist licenses issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- Have completed the number of continuing education hours required for renewing their QAC.

The valid CDFA licenses are listed in the following paragraph, "Qualifying CDFA licenses."

If CAC staff separate employment, the QAC would become invalid. Staff would need to apply for a new QAC when employed by a different CAC.

Address of record

DPR will use the address of the employing CAC office as the address of record for the QAC holder. The QAC holder is required to notify DPR if there is a change of address for the CAC office.

Continued on next page

Alternate Qualification Procedures for County Agricultural Commissioner Staff to Obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate, Continued

New and renewing application information

To apply for a new QAC, CAC staff need to submit to DPR a:

- Completed QAC Application, PR-PML-001A, indicating the pest control category(ies) desired.
- Completed waiver request form, PR-PML-001A-WR, indicating the valid county inspector biologist license(s) held by the applicant.
- Copy of the CDFA county inspector biologist license(s)

To renew a QAC, CAC staff need to submit to DPR a:

- Completed waiver request form, PR-PML-001A-WR.
 - Documentation of completing the number of continuing education hours required for renewing their QAC.
-

Qualifying CDFA licenses

The table below describes the relationship between the DPR QAC examinations, QAC pest control categories, and CDFA county inspector biologist licenses.

DPR QAC Examinations	QAC Pest Control Category	CDFA County Biologist and/or Inspector License
Laws, Regulations, and the Basic Principles of Safe Pesticide Use	Not Applicable	Pesticide Regulation
Right-of-way	C (Right-of-way)	Integrated Pest Management
Regulatory	G (Regulatory)	Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation

Enclosures

Enclosed are a copy of the:

- Issue paper described in the “Background” paragraph.
- QAC Waiver Request form, PR-PML-001A-WR.

NOTE: You may copy the enclosed form. We will soon post a portable document format version on the DPR Licensing and Certification Program Web site.
